

I Claim:

1. A vehicle positioning apparatus for positioning a vehicle adjacent a stationary livestock unloader, the apparatus comprising:

- a vehicle support surface;
- a movable member for traveling across said surface;
- a joining member for attaching the vehicle to said movable member; and
- a means for moving said movable member thereby also moving the attached vehicle.

2. A vehicle positioning apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said vehicle support surface includes at least one ramp.

3. A vehicle positioning apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said joining member includes a hitch assembly for locking the vehicle to said movable member.

4. A vehicle positioning apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said means for moving include a push assembly for pushing said movable member a predetermined distance.

5. A vehicle positioning apparatus as defined in claim 4 wherein said assembly includes at least one main cylinder capable of extending and retracting, said main cylinder having a means for coupling said movable member on one end whereby extension of said cylinder pushes said movable member.

6. A vehicle positioning apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said movable member includes spaced indentations capable of cooperating with said means for coupling such that said assembly engages said movable member, moves said member a predetermined distance upon extension, uncouples and retracts, and again engages said movable member.

7. A vehicle positioning apparatus as defined in claim 4 wherein said push assembly includes a brake for holding the position of said movable member.

8. A vehicle positioning apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said assembly includes at least one secondary cylinder capable of extending and retracting, said secondary cylinder capable of providing finer positioning than said main cylinder.

9. A system for unloading livestock from a vehicle, the system comprising:
a stationary unloader unit having a base and a primary index, said primary index capable of extending into and retracting out of a storage unit of said vehicle;
a vehicle support surface adjacent said unloader unit;
a movable member for traveling across said surface;
a joining member for attaching the vehicle to said movable member; and
a means for moving said movable member thereby also moving the attached vehicle.

10. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 9 wherein said primary index includes a telescopic conveyor section movably mounted to and supported by said base, said telescopic conveyor section positioned generally parallel to said support surface and having a length, a livestock receiving end and a discharge end, said receiving end extendable from and retractable to said base.

11. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 10 further including an elevating support member movably mounted to said base for elevating said index.

12. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 11 further including a mobile conveyor discharge belt section having a first end pivotably attached to said elevating support member to provide for a first point of transfer between said discharge end and said mobile conveyor discharge

belt section, said mobile conveyor discharge belt section having a second end adaptable to traversing a surface.

13. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 12 further including a stationary discharge conveyor section for conveying the livestock for further processing, said second end of said mobile conveyor discharge belt section movably mounted to said stationary discharge conveyor section to provide a second point of transfer.

14. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 9 wherein said means for moving include a push assembly for pushing said movable member a predetermined distance.

15. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 14 wherein said assembly includes at least one main cylinder capable of extending and retracting said main cylinder having a means for coupling said movable member on one end whereby extension of said cylinder pushes said movable member.

16. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 15 wherein said movable member includes spaced indentations capable of cooperating with said means for coupling such that said assembly engages said movable member, moves said member a predetermined distance upon extension, uncouples and retracts, and again engages said movable member.

17. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 14 wherein said push assembly includes a brake for holding the position of said movable member.

18. A system for unloading livestock as defined in claim 15 wherein said assembly includes at least one secondary cylinder capable of extending and retracting, said secondary cylinder capable of providing finer positioning than said main cylinder.

19. A method of unloading livestock from a transport vehicle, the method comprising:
- positioning the vehicle on a truck positioner adjacent an unloader unit;
 - attaching the vehicle to the positioner;
 - unloading a column of livestock storage units within said vehicle;
 - moving the vehicle to the next column of storage units; and
 - removing the vehicle from the positioner upon completion of the unloading of livestock from the vehicle.